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# OUTLINE TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

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## I. PROPHECY, ITS CONTENTS AND DEFINITION; LITERATURE.

### I. INTRODUCTORY.

#### 1. A life: Samuel.<sup>1</sup>

- 1) *The Times*, from the religious, the moral, the political and the prophetical points of view.
- 2) *The Facts*: Samuel's call; the gathering at Mizpeh; establishment of the monarchy; appointment of Saul; rebuke and rejection of Saul; relation to David; farewell words; appearance after death; the prophetic schools.
- 3) *The Teachings*: Faith; patience; integrity; self-sacrifice; religious activity; punishment for sin; obedience rather than sacrifice; the sovereignty of God; the after-life; special training.

#### 2. An Event: the invasion of Sennacherib.<sup>2</sup>

- 1) *The Times*, from the religious, the moral, the political and the prophetical points of view.
- 2) *The Details*: Approach of the Assyrian army; the preaching of Isaiah; invasion of the outlying cities;

<sup>1</sup> Jos., *Ant.*, v. 10, 1-4; Ewald, *The History of Israel*, II., 419-30; Wilberforce, *Heroes of Hebrew History*, 198-228; Reuss, *Die Geschichte der Heiligen Schriften*, 135-8; Kirkpatrick, *The first book of Samuel* (*Cambridge Bible*), 29-34; Hervey, *Samuel*, 242 f (*Bible Comm.*); R. P. Smith, *1 Samuel*, i.-ix (*Pulpit Comm.*); Kittel, *Geschichte der Hebräer*, II., 94-97; Deane, *Samuel and Saul, their lives and times*.

<sup>2</sup> Strachey, *Jewish History and Politics*, 302-19; W. R. Smith, *The Prophets of Israel*, 317-53 and 434-5. *KAT*<sup>2</sup>, 285-332, esp. 304-17; Stade, *Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, I., 603-24. *KB II*, 92; Pinches, *JRAS*, Oct. 1887, 678; Blake, *How to read Isaiah*<sup>2</sup>, 136 ff.; Kittel, *Geschichte Der Hebräer* II., 203 and 305-14; Renan, *History of the People of Israel*, III., 79-93; Tiele, *Geschichte*, 289 ff., 314 ff; Herodotus, II., 141; Rawlinson, *Anc. Mons.*, II., 165; Geo. Smith, *Hist. of Sennacherib*, 87; Driver, *Isaiah*, 55-83.

yielding of Hezekiah; change of attitude of the Assyrian king; visit of the Assyrian embassy; the preaching of Isaiah; the outcome; the songs of praise.

- 3) *The Teachings*: Power of Jehovah; his regard for Judah; the fulfilment of promises; his attitude toward sin; the outlook for the future; the divine mission of the prophet; of materialism; justice.

### 3. Stories from the Past Concerning Joseph and His Brethren.<sup>1</sup>

- 1) *The Times*: The division of the kingdom; period of Elijah and Elisha; condition of the people; the need of religious instruction; written prophecy.
- 2) *The Stories*: Joseph and his brethren; Joseph and Pharaoh; Joseph and his father's family; the differences; the resemblances; the stories, as oral tradition; the stories combined.
- 3) *The Teachings*: The punishment of the evil-doer; the prosperity and honor of the upright; the overruling providence of God; Jehovah's special interest in Israel's ancestors.

### 4. Stories from the Past Concerning David.<sup>2</sup>

- 1) *The Times*: The prophetic mission; the prophet's independence; the evil reigns of the kings; the tendency of the times.
- 2) *The Stories*: David and Bathsheba; Nathan and David; David and Absalom; the king's flight; the death of Absalom; the remaining days of his life.
- 3) *The Teaching*: The heinousness of sin; the king himself punished; the one loved by God afflicted; the certainty, therefore, of punishment for sin.

<sup>1</sup> Wilberforce, *Heroes of Hebrew Hist.*, 51-91; Kuenen, *The Hexateuch*, 67 f., 230 f., 327 ff.; Dillmann, *Die Genesis*<sup>5</sup>, esp. 385 f., and 396 ff.; Delitzsch, *Commentar über die Genesis*, 437-46 and 452-91; Kittel, *History of the Hebrews*, I., 186-91; Niebuhr, *Geschichte des Ebräischen Zeitalters*, I., 170-3; Hanna and Norris, *The Patriarchs*, 141-69; Bacon, *The Genesis of Genesis*, in loc.; Kalisch, *Genesis*, in loc.

<sup>2</sup> Maurice, *The Prophets and Kings of the Old Testament*, 35-70; Lowrie, *The Life of David*; Wilberforce, *Heroes of Heb. History*, 229-63; MacLaren, *The Life of David*; Reuss, *Die Geschichte der Heiligen Schriften*, 173-89; Kirkpatrick, *The First Book of Samuel*, 38-41; Stade, *Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, I., esp. 295-9; Kittel, *Geschichte der Hebräer*, II., 104-15 and 120-52; Deane, *David: His Life and Times*.

5. A Sermon from the Present; Isaiah's Arraignment (Chap. I.).<sup>1</sup>

- 1) *The Times*: The people have apostatized; the princes (vs. 4); the land is laid waste by strangers (vs. 7); the worship is formal and an abomination; the princes are guilty of murder (vs. 15), of corruption and oppression (vs. 23). [Ahaz (?); Hezekiah (?)]
- 2) *The Sermon*:  
 Vss. 1–9. The charge: Israel's sins; her rottenness; her utter ruin, but for the interposition of Jehovah.  
 Vss. 10–17. The defense, based upon the ground of maintenance of worship, refuted: Israel's worship formal and hateful; her prayers unendurable; righteousness is demanded.  
 Vss. 18–23. An opportunity for reconciliation,—how wretched and wicked the condition of Israel.  
 Vss. 24–30. The punishment which impends, if the offer is rejected; the purification; the remnant.
- 3) *The Purpose*: To convict the people of their sins; to change their false conceptions of life; to persuade them to become obedient to the will of Jehovah; to terrify them, by announcement of judgment, into a better kind of life.

6. A Sermon from the Present, Jeremiah's Rebuke (Chap. XXXV.).<sup>2</sup>

- 1) *The Circumstances*: Fourth year of Jehoiakim (B. C. 604(?)); Nebuchadrezzar approaching; people fleeing to city; among others the Rechabites; a test of their obedience to the laws of their fathers (vss. 1–11).
- 2) *The Sermon* (vss. 14–19): The Rechabites observe faithfully a human command. Israel has continually disobeyed the command of Jehovah. Israel shall suffer the divine judgment. The Rechabites shall receive the reward of their fidelity.

<sup>1</sup> Geo. A. Smith, *Expositor's Bible*, in loc.; Driver, *Isaiah*, 19; Cheyne, Nägelsbach (Lange), Delitzsch, in loc.

<sup>2</sup> Blayney, *Jeremiah and Lamentations*<sup>2</sup>, in loc.; Keil, *The Prophecies of Jeremiah*, II., in loc.; Cheyne, *Jeremiah; his life and times*, in loc.; Ball, *The Expositor's Bible*, in loc.; Streane, *Jeremiah (Cambridge Bible)*, in loc.

- 3) *The Purpose*: To convict the people of their ingratitude toward God; to persuade them to become obedient to his commands; to avert, if possible, the impending calamity.

**7. Predictions in the Realm of the Immediate Future.**

- 1) *Jonah's Prediction concerning Nineveh* (Jon. 1).<sup>1</sup>  
 (a) the circumstances; (b) the statement; (c) the result; (d) the purpose of God in directing the utterance; (e) the feelings of the prophet in view of the success of his preaching.
- 2) *Jeremiah and Hananiah concerning the return from Babylon* (Jer. XXVIII.).<sup>2</sup>  
 (a) The circumstances (vs. 1); (b) Hananiah's prediction (vss. 2-4); (c) Jeremiah's characterization of the true prophet (vss. 5-9); (d) the prediction repeated (vss. 10, 11); (e) the message to Jeremiah (vss. 12-14); (f) rebuke of the false prophet (vss. 15-17); (g) inferences from the narrative.
- 3) *Isaiah and the invasion of Sennacherib*.<sup>3</sup>  
 (a) Chap. 29 (one year before invasion): within one year, an army (1-5); but it shall be scattered (6-8); you are blind, your priests err, you are perverse (9-16); after a little, the nation will be transformed, no more shame (17-24).  
 (b) Chaps. 14 : 24-27 ; 17 : 12-14 (after Sennacherib has come south): Assyria shall be broken ; Assyria shall perish suddenly.  
 (c) Chap. 37 : 1-7 (after the speech of the Assyrian officer): the assurance given of Israel's stability, and of the Assyrian's overthrow.  
 (d) Chap. 37 : 8-35 (upon the return of the Assyrian officer): another message (10-13); Hezekiah's

<sup>1</sup> Kalisch, *Bible Studies*, Part II.; Ewald, *Old Testament Prophets*, Vol. V.; Kennedy, *The Book of Jonah*; Perowne, *The Book of Jonah* (Cambridge Bible).

<sup>2</sup> See references given above on Jeremiah XXXV.

<sup>3</sup> See references given above on Sennacherib's invasion and the various commentaries.

prayer (14-20); Isaiah's last message (21-29; 30-32: 33-35).

(e) The prophet's purpose in all these sermons.

#### 8. Predictions in the realm of a more remote future.

##### 1. *Amos' predictions of punishment and restoration.*<sup>1</sup>

1) *The situation:* Jeroboam II.

2) *The predictions.*

(a) The series of visions: locusts (7:1-3); fire (7:4-6); plumb-line (7:7-9); basket of ripe fruit (8:1-3); the broken altar (9:1).

(b) The blessings which are to follow; David's hut rebuilt (9:11, 12); prosperity (9:13); return from captivity (9:14); permanence in their land (9:15).

3) *The purpose of the predictions.*

##### 2. *Zechariah's prediction of Zion's King* (9:9-12).<sup>2</sup>

1) *The context:* The judgment upon Tyre and Philistia, the protection of Zion (9:1-8).

2) *The prediction:* Zion's King shall come in peace (9), implements of war shall be destroyed, and in peace he shall rule the world (10), captives shall be set free (11).

3) *The purpose and meaning of the prediction.*

#### II. THE WORDS FOR "PROPHET AND PROPHECY."<sup>3</sup>

##### 1. The ordinary word for "prophet."

1) Its meaning, usage in the cognate languages.

2) Its form and usage in Hebrew.

3) The primitive meaning and development in Hebrew.

##### 2. The words translated "see," "seer," "vision."

1) Earlier significance and usage.

2) Later significance and usage.

<sup>1</sup> Orelli, *O. T. Prophecy*, 224 f.; Briggs, *Messianic Prophecy*, 160 f.; Mitchell *in loc.*; Baur, *in loc.*

<sup>2</sup> Wright, *Zechariah*, *in loc.*; Lowe, *Zechariah*, *in loc.*; Perowne, *Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi* (*Cambridge Bible*); Rubinkam, *Zechariah*, *in loc.*

<sup>3</sup> Kuenen, *The Prophets*, 49; Oehler, *O. T. Theology*, 363 ff.; Hoffmann, *ZAW* III., 92 f.; W. R. Smith, *Prophets*, 389 f.; W. R. Smith, *Encyc. Brit.*, XIX, 836-45; Orelli, *O. T. Prophecy*, 11 ff.; Briggs' *Messianic Prophecy*, 14 ff.; Schultz, *O. T. Theology*, I., 264 ff.; Keil, on Gen. 20:7; Heb. Lexicons on the particular words

3. The word translated "declaration," "oracle," "saying."
4. The word translated "burden."
5. The phrase "And God said."

### III. THE CONTENTS OF PROPHECY.

1. Enacted history, lives and events, or living prophecy.
2. Stories of the past, or experience prophecy.
3. Descriptions of the present, or descriptive prophecy.
4. Pictures of the future, or predictive prophecy.

### IV. DEFINITION OF PROPHECY.

1. "Prediction, by means of divine revelation, of any occurrence which was contingent, and therefore not to be foreknown by human wisdom."
2. "Speaking of individuals under the influence of the Spirit of God."
3. "Power of expressing the will of the Word of God."
4. "Religious Instruction."
5. "Illustration and declaration of the principles of divine government."

### V. OTHER OLD TESTAMENT MATERIAL.

1. The Element of "Legislation."<sup>1</sup>
  - 1) Contents and scope.
  - 2) Authors.
  - 3) History.
  - 4) Points of difference, as compared with "Prophecy."
- 2 The element of "Wisdom" or "Philosophy."<sup>2</sup>
  - 1) Contents and scope.
  - 2) Authors.
  - 3) History.
  - 4) Points of difference, as compared with "Prophecy."

### VI. LITERATURE ON "PROPHECY."

[This list contains only those works which are supposed to be most accessible.]

Ewald, *Comm. on the Prophets of the O. T.* 1., 1875, pp. 1-106.

Kuenen, *The Prophets and Prophecy in Israel*, 1877.

Reuss, *Die Geschichte der Heiligen Schriften alten Testaments*, 1881.

W. R. Smith, *The Prophets of Israel*, 1882.

Redford, *Prophecy, its nature and evidence*, 1882.

Green, *Moses and the Prophets*, 1883.

<sup>1</sup> Dillmann, *Die Bücher Numeri, Deuteronomium und Josua*<sup>2</sup>, 591-690; Wellhausen, *The History of Israel*; Bissell, *Origin and Structure of the Pentateuch*; Driver, *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*; Green, *Moses and the Prophets*.

<sup>2</sup> Cheyne, *Job and Solomon*, 117-24; Root, *Old and New Test. Student*, July, 1889, 24-7; Driver, *Introduction*, 368 ff.; Davidson, *Expositor*, May 1880, 321 f.; Davidson, *Proverbs*, *Encyc. Brit.*, XIX, 904-9.

- Orelli, *Old Testament Prophecy*, 1885.  
 Briggs, *Messianic Prophecy*, 1886.  
 Elliott, *Old Testament Prophecy*, 1889.  
 Kirkpatrick, *The Doctrine of the Prophets*, 1892.  
 McCurdy, *History, Prophecy, and the Monuments*, 1894.  
 Kayser, *Theologie des Alten Testaments*<sup>2</sup>, 1894.  
 Schlottmann, *Kompendium der biblischen Theologie*<sup>2</sup>, 1895.  
 Cornill, *The Prophets of Israel*, 1895.  
 R. Payne Smith, *Prophecy, a preparation for Christ*, 1871.  
 Hengstenberg, *Christology of the O. T.*<sup>3</sup> 4 vols., 1872-5.  
 Duhm, *Die Theologie der Propheten*, 1875.  
 Davison, *Discourses on Prophecy, new ed.*, 1875.  
 Riehm, *Messianic Prophecy*, 1876.  
 Gloag, *Messianic Prophecy*, 1876.  
 Delitzsch, *Messianic Prophecies*, 1880.  
 Leathes, *Old Testament Prophecy*, 1880.  
 Stearns, *Messianic Prophecy*, 1884.  
 Edersheim, *Prophecy and History in relation to the Messiah*, 1885.  
 Schultz, *O. T. Theology*, 2 vols., 1892.  
 Lee, *On Prophecy*, 1830.  
 Turner, *Thoughts on Scripture Prophecy*, 1856.  
 Newton, *Dissertations on the Prophecies*, revised by W. S. Dobson, 1883.  
 Pember, *The great prophecies concerning Gentiles, Jews, and the Church of God*, 1881.  
 Kellogg, *The Jews, or Prediction and Fulfilment*, 1883.  
 Keith, *Evidence of the truth of the Christian Religion derived from the literal fulfilment of prophecy*.